

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Entry of the amendments to the claims is requested, as the amendments place the application in clear condition for allowance or alternatively place the claims in better form for appeal. Specifically, claims are rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and the claims are amended, consistent with the Examiner's recommendations, to overcome the outstanding rejections.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 16, 23, 33 and 35 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

Initially, Applicants' express thanks for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8-10 and 23-25, such that the objected to claims will be allowable when rewritten in independent form. In response, claims 8 and 23 are rewritten. Claims 9 and 10, and claims 24 and 25, depend from rewritten claims 8 and 23. Therefore, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the allowance of claims 8-10 and 23-25 is requested.

In the Office Action the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 30, 2005, November 14, 2005, and December 12, 2005 are indicated as being improper. Consideration of the related cases is requested, as the Lists of Related Cases filed with the Statement are in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, as well as MPEP § 609. Although the Office Action does not state the basis on which the filing are deemed to be improper, it is submitted that no copies of the pending applications were included with the

Statements in view of the waiver of this requirement, as set forth in the Official Gazette notice of October 19, 2004.

It is submitted that consideration of the references listed on the List of References Cited by Applicant with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 16, 2004, has not yet been acknowledged. It is requested that the Examiner return with the next Patent Office communication an initialed, signed and dated copy of the List.

Claims 1-7, 11, 15-22, 26 and 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,408,142 to Takeuchi et al. (Takeuchi). Claims 12-14 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,943,529 to Miyabe et al. (Miyabe). It is requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and the claims allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, is directed to a process cartridge detachably attached to an image forming apparatus. Specifically, as recited in independent claim 1, the cartridge includes an image carrier configured to carry an image. At least one image forming process device is configured to perform image forming processes. A case is configured to integrally accommodate the image carrier and the at least one image forming process device. A first non-slip holding portion is provided on a surface of the case. The process cartridge is configured to move in a longitudinal direction of the image carrier, and insertion or removal of the process cartridge from the image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction is facilitated by grasping the process cartridge by the first non-slip holding portion and a rear surface of the case opposite from the first non-slip holding portion during which a portion of the case contacts a support of the image forming apparatus.

It is submitted that Takeuchi does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of a process cartridge moving in a longitudinal direction of an image carrier during insertion or removal from an image forming apparatus, during which a case of the cartridge contacts a

support of the image forming apparatus. Rather, as set forth from column 29, line 62 to column 30, line 30, and as shown in Figure 49 of Takeuchi the cartridge B is inserted in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the photosensitive drum 7 extends.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn. The allowance of independent claim 1 is requested.

Independent claims 16, 33 and 35 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed with respect to independent claim 1. The allowance of independent claims 16, 33 and 35 is therefore requested.

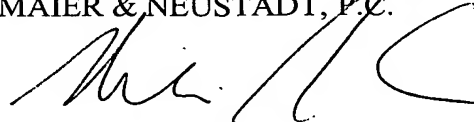
The remaining claims are allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1, 16, 33 and 35 from which they depend, as well as for their own features.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340